



LAA Task Group

2.00 – 4.30 pm Thursday 12th March 2009
Okehampton business Centre, Okehampton

Present:

Andrew Lightfoot	Devon Economic Partnership
Phil Slater	Devon County Council
Dotty Allan	West Devon Borough Council
Emma Gorbutt	West Devon Borough Council
Keith Williams	Exeter City Council
Gordon Cleaver	Mid Devon District Council
Paul Sadler	Environment Agency
Janet Sinclair	Jobcentre Plus
Leanne Crawford	Devon Rural Network (Scribe)
Tony Skeel	Learning and Skills Council
Ian Hobbs	Devon County Council
Mary Ridgway	Devon Strategic Housing Group

Apologies:

Bruce Thompson	Devon County Council
Jill Borrow	Devon County Council
Keri Denton	Devon County Council
Tim Jones	Devon & Cornwall Business Council
Melanie Sealey	Renewable Energy 4 Devon
Vanessa Saunders	Torrige District Council
Ian Morris	Government Office South West
Ellen Vernon	North Devon Council
Liz Wood	Devon County Council
Tim Stokes	Exmoor National Park Authority
Andrew Ardley	Devon County Council
John Baker	Devon County Council
Richard Ball	Exeter City Council
Annette Denith	Devon County Council
Pauline Warner	Devon County Council

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

Introductions given round the table.

2.0 Review of progress to date

Disadvantaged communities – Work was ongoing and Princetown was highlighted as an example that could be used as a model for elsewhere in terms of an integrated programme of partnership investment and development. The Northern Peninsula Strategic Investment Framework had been agreed, and could also be used as a template. Other projects under development were the Newton Abbot growth point; Exeter neighbourhood management; and south Devon coastal towns (Seaton, Exmouth, Teignmouth, and Dawlish).

It was agreed that project work should be linked to other streams of the LAA to ensure a whole “on the ground” picture to ensure that relevant parties were aware of ongoing activity. It was suggested that LAA leads could report back quarterly on progress.

It was also stated that Local Strategic Partnerships wanted to know what work they could be doing on a local level to add value to LAA work.



Action: Andrew to report back on LAA Coordinators meeting to be held on 16th March

Social Enterprise – Teign CVS had been awarded funding to offer procurement training for social enterprises, with 5 workshops organised. Under the Community Asset Development (Quirk) approach, three properties were under offer to communities, and these would be used to establish a process for dealing with transfers and for the development of a model for future transfers.

A seminar was being held by Devon County Council to increase awareness on 20th March at County Hall.

Action: contact Andrew if interested in attending

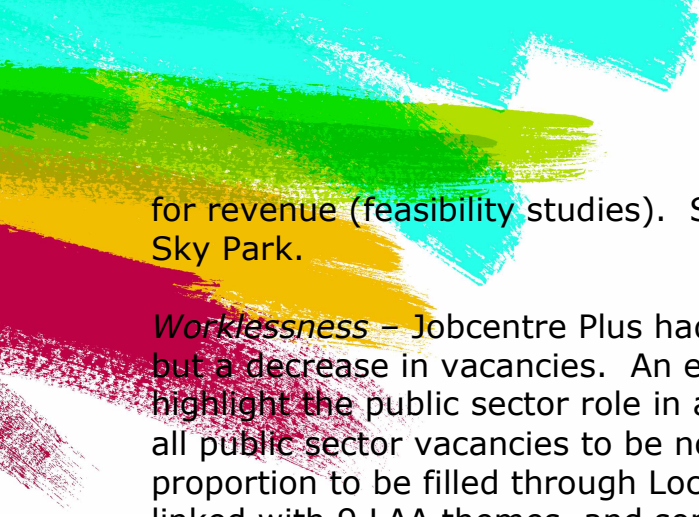
Dartington Hall was proposing to set up a school for social entrepreneurs, offering support to individuals over a 12 month period. Funding was being sought.

Skills – Recent 2007 figures showed an improvement on the 2006 baseline of 3.4%, although the National Indicator for the skills element was difficult to monitor. Newer programmes from central Government have focussed on reskilling rather than upskilling. Local Employment and Skills Boards were being developed, with four in Devon. There was also an emphasis on the commitment to increase the number of apprenticeships and the Public Sector may be relied upon to help attain this target (20,000 over the next 4-5 years), possibly though vacancies being badged as potential apprenticeships or for redeployment.

ICT/Innovation – The Devon ICT Strategy was now available, with 3 key measures – productivity; social inclusion; and environmental issues, with a vision to improve GVA by £800 million if recommendations are implemented. The Innovation Strategy was under development and tied in with initiatives through EU Cooperation and Competitiveness programmes.

Transport – there were 2 main indicators. LA20 (Managing demand for travel) – the number of bus services originating in Devon had already reached the 2010/11 target; mode of travel to school had been difficult to establish a baseline in 2008, the 2009 value was under analysis. Under LA21 (delivering major infrastructure) 4 schemes had been identified by RSS but none will be delivered by the target year 2010/11, and there was no defined indicator.

Devon Employment Space Strategy- An Action Plan was under development, and the process had been delayed. The District Economic Development Officers were meeting with Keri Denton to discuss proposals for each area. Devon County Council had allocated £1.4 million for capital funding and £100K



for revenue (feasibility studies). Schemes ranged from community hubs to Sky Park.

Worklessness – Jobcentre Plus had experienced an increase in registrations, but a decrease in vacancies. An event was organised for 27th March to highlight the public sector role in addressing worklessness, with a proposal for all public sector vacancies to be notified to Jobcentre Plus, with a significant proportion to be filled through Local Employment Partnerships. Worklessness linked with 9 LAA themes, and some of the work around finance and debt advice and management tied in with work being completed under LAA 27 (homelessness) [Lisa Jennings the contact for this element].

The target for NI146 (learning disability and employment) had been parked, but work was ongoing, with a proposed pilot project to be conducted by John Willis.

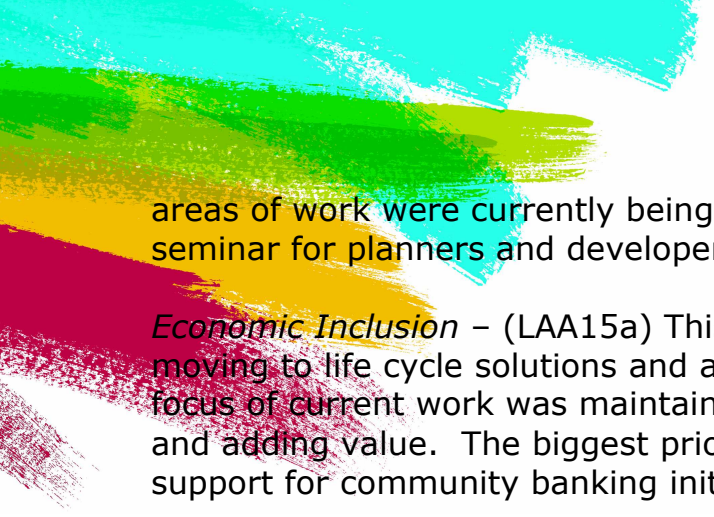
Landbased productivity - there were 3 components of this Outcome. Funding has been obtained to employ a Project Development Worker under Axis 1 (agricultural resource and innovation), Sarah Woollacott, who came into post on 23rd February 2009. The final stage for this strand was the development of a delivery plan. The second strand was the production and report around the barriers for land based businesses accessing training support and brokerage services. The final element was the production of a soils vulnerability map, displaying potential impacts from land use, to be promoted to land owners to minimise harmful management on soil processes. This was under completion by the Environment Agency.

A Rural Business group was also under development through the DRN and DEP.

LAA2 Green Infrastructure – the Partnership was currently developing baselines and analysing current Strategies. The Place Survey was being used to monitor progress, and a mapping exercise was underway to highlight where green infrastructure already exists in Devon to identify gaps and potential for joining up. A Conference had been proposed for end 2009.

LAA7 Energy Efficient Housing – the target has not yet been agreed, although the baseline had been set. An initiative was underway to retrain people to provide energy efficiency services, but not currently in Devon. It was questioned whether the LAA and DEP Partnerships could help influence the intermittent funding to address this.

Housing – there were 4 indicators around housing. It is anticipated that Indicator 154 will not reach its target under current conditions. Target 155 (new affordable housing) could be reached under proposals to purchase unfinished units from developer to convert. There were currently around 10,000 unsold shared ownership properties in Devon. Lead agencies for key



areas of work were currently being identified, and the report from a two day seminar for planners and developers was being submitted to the SWRDA.

Economic Inclusion – (LAA15a) This was building on previous LPSA2 work, moving to life cycle solutions and a reengineering of advice services. The main focus of current work was maintaining previous work and stretching expertise and adding value. The biggest priority was child and family poverty and support for community banking initiatives.

3.0 Performance management systems and reporting

SPAR.net – it was suggested that the seminars could be rerun for those unable to attend the first sessions. A Quarterly Bulletin was being produced to flag progress, with a RAG (RED, Amber, Green) report to be produced by leads.

Action: reporting dates

First run of all data on SPAR.net: 15 April

RAG Report: 25 June

RAG Report: 25 August

RAG Report: 29 October

RAG Report: 4 January

4.0 Refresh and Review of LAA targets and spatial impact

The LAA had been refreshed and submitted to GOSW, with the National Indicators mostly unchanged, except for housing and worklessness. Local Indicators still required elaboration and more work on place impact was required.

5.0 Resource gaps

Funding for activities to take forward, partly related to LPSA, with the remainder from partners budgets, if available. It was agreed that this should be considered after a review of the first full year activities and assessment of performance and priorities, with money to be allocated strategically.

Action: agenda item for next meeting

There was a resource deficit for infrastructure.

As a result of the DCC “weathering the storm” conference, DCC were proposing to allocate a further £½ million to respond to initiatives. This will be confirmed shortly if agreed.

6.0 Equality Impact Needs Assessment (EINA)

It had been proposed that one assessment was produced for the whole economy theme. Andrew had started to draft this for discussion. The Equality Strategy and Scrutiny Group, Chaired by Phil Norrey, was keen to support EINA work and was willing to review any documents produced in a critical friend role.



7.0 Links with other LAA themes

2 block split – there was an original “4th theme” group but was spilt as this covered 22 of the 38 outcomes, but with occasional full meetings to be proposed. The next environment meeting will be held on 22nd April.

8.0 Future meeting arrangements

Next meeting to be held on 14th May, at 2pm, venue to be confirmed.

Agenda items: EINA
 Resources
 SPAR.net
 Place